

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Gold for the courtesy and cooperation extended to the Applicant's undersigned attorney as well as Mr. Dan Teodosiu, one of the listed inventors of the present application, during the telephone interview of January 11, 2006. The current amendments to the claims are submitted in accordance with the substance of the interview. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

More particularly, in response to the rejection of Claims 1-45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Pollack, *et al.*, (U.S. Patent 6,505,236; hereafter "Pollack") has been maintained, it was pointed out to the Examiner that the claimed invention is directed towards a peer-to-peer communication system by which e-mail attachments may be sent to a distributed storage system separate from an e-mail server. Conversely, Pollack describes a network-based system that strips e-mail attachments from the e-mail message at the e-mail server.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 13, 19, 21, 23, 28, 35, 38, 39, and 41 have been amended to more clearly indicate that the claimed invention may be implemented within a peer-to-peer communication system. The Examiner, as shown by the foregoing Substance of Interview, has agreed to consider such amendments.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Pollack fails to teach a peer-to-peer communication system by which e-mail attachments may be sent to a distributed storage system separate from an e-mail server, and thus the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

The remaining references of record have been studied. It is respectfully submitted that they do not compensate for the deficiencies of the reference utilized to reject the pending claims.


All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

Date: January 30, 2006

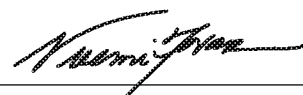
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

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January 30, 2006
Date


Noemi Tovar